



Real People. Real Issues. Real Results.

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February 7, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

CC: Honorable Albio Sires, Honorable Barney Frank, Honorable Maxine Waters,
Honorable Steny Hoyer, Honorable John Boehner, U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Madam Speaker,

The undersigned 150 democratic grassroots resident organizing groups and allies would like to convey our strong support for protecting the rights of public housing residents to organize, as delineated in HR 3521, the Public Housing Asset Management Improvement Act of 2007. As the transition to a system of asset management is one of the most significant shifts facing the administration of public housing in many years, it is more important than ever that public housing residents are involved in the decision-making processes at the local and national levels.

In April of 2007, the National Training & Information Center (NTIC) submitted a letter to Congress endorsed by local, statewide, and national organizations in protest of recent attempts to undermine the efforts of resident and community organizations to participate in the decisions around public housing that impact their communities and their lives. One of those attempts was a notice by HUD on March 1, 2007 to streamline the process to waive 24 CFR 964, which outlines the rights of residents to organize, for PHAs transitioning to asset management. Section 4 of HR 3521 is critical in order to ensure that the congressionally sanctioned rights to organize for public housing residents are protected.

The NTIC network is of the perspective that residents must be central to the discourse around policies that impact them – both at the local and national level. Section 4 of this bill will ensure that the voices of public housing residents are not lost in the implementation of asset management. Over the past year, NTIC has brought together public housing residents and allies from 38 cities to identify the most pressing areas for reform of public housing policy. The right to organize and meaningful resident participation are among the highest priorities for residents across the country. In order to make asset management work for everyone, it is critical that residents are involved in decisions around its implementation.

The undersigned 150 local, statewide, and national organizations would like to convey our support for the principles outlined in Section 4 of HR 3521. Namely, we feel strongly that residents should have a right to organize in public housing and should be meaningfully and substantively involved in the decisions that impact their lives – both at the local and national level. Specifically, it is critical that the rights bestowed by 24 CFR 964 not be undermined by the transition to asset management. We hope that we can rely on your support for these principles.

Feel free to contact NTIC's Director of Housing Justice Organizing, Sam Finkelstein, at (312) 676-2815 with any questions or concerns. Thank you for listening to the voices of the people!

Signed,

Access Living - *Chicago, IL*
Annapolis Tenant Task Force - *Boston, MA*
Beacon Glen Resident Association - *Cincinnati, OH*
Bethel New Life - *Chicago, IL*
Bethune Village Resident Council - *Daytona Beach, FL*
Border Fair Housing & Economic Justice Center - *El Paso, Texas*
Bowen Homes Resident Association - *Atlanta, GA*
Cabrini Green Rowhouse Council - *Chicago, IL*
California Coalition for Rural Housing - *California State*
Center for Community Change - *National*
Central Advisory Council - *Chicago, IL*
Central Illinois Organizing Project - *Central Illinois*
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless - *Chicago, IL*
Chicago Rehab Network - *Chicago, IL*
Cleveland Housing Resident Association - *Cleveland, TN*
Clinton Springs Resident Association - *Cincinnati, OH*
Coalition to Protect Public Housing - *Chicago, IL*
Communities United for Action - *Cincinnati, OH*
Community Voices Heard - *New York, NY*
Connecticut Legal Services - *Connecticut State*
Consumer Action - *National*
Crossroads Urban Center - *Salt Lake City, UT*
Detroit United Organizing for Power - *Detroit, MI*
District of Columbia Grassroots Empowerment Project - *Washington, DC*
Empower DC - *Washington, DC*
Empowering & Strengthening Ohio's People - *Cleveland, OH*
Erie Tenant Council - *Erie, PA*
Everywhere & Now Public Housing Residents Organizing Nationally Together - *National*
Fall River Housing Joint Tenants Council Inc. - *Fall River, MA*
Families United for Racial and Economic Equality - *New York, NY*
Faneuil Tenant Task Force - *Boston, MA*
Findlater Gardens Resident Association - *Cincinnati, OH*
Fuerza Laboral/Power of Workers - *Providence, RI*
Good Old Lower East Side - *New York, NY*
Grass Roots Organizing - *Mexico, MO*
Guste Homes Resident Management Corporation - *New Orleans, LA*
Hartford Organizing for Power & Equality - *Hartford, CT*
Homeline - *Minnesota State*
Horizon Hills Resident Association - *Cincinnati, OH*
Housing Action Illinois - *Illinois State*
Housing Choices Coalition - *Santa Cruz, CA*
Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco - *San Francisco, CA*
Housing Trust Fund Project - *National*
Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living - *Illinois State*
Imagine Supported Living - *Santa Cruz, CA*
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement - *Iowa State*
Jane Addams Senior Caucus - *Chicago, IL*
Janie Poe Residents Council - *Sarasota, FL*

Jurisdiction-Wide Resident Advisory Board – *Cincinnati, OH*
Just Cause Oakland - *Oakland, CA*
Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network - *Kalamazoo, MI*
Lafayette Resident Advisory Board - *Lafayette, WI*
Lake City House Council - *Seattle, WA*
Lake County Center for Independent Living - *Lake County, IL*
Lake Park East Tenant Association - *Chicago, IL*
Lakeview Action Coalition - *Chicago, IL*
La Playa Resident Council - *San Diego, CA*
La Raza Centro Legal - *San Francisco, CA*
Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing - *Chicago, IL*
Lebanon Tenants Association - *Lebanon, PA*
Le Claire Court Community Development Corporation - *Chicago, IL*
Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing - *Seattle, WA*
Legal Aid Justice Center - *Charlottesville, VA*
Legal Aid Justice Center - *Richmond, VA*
Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut - *Connecticut State*
Liberty Apartments Resident Association - *Cincinnati, OH*
Livermore Tenants and Neighbors - *Livermore, CA*
Logan Square Neighborhood Association - *Chicago, IL*
Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness - *Los Angeles, CA*
Lowden Homes Local Advisory Council - *Chicago, IL*
Low Income Families Fighting Together - *Miami, FL*
Madera Action Coalition - *Madera, CA*
Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods - *Maine State*
Maine Equal Justice Partners - *Maine State*
Mar Vista Gardens Resident Advisory Committee - *Los Angeles, CA*
Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants - *Massachusetts State*
Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants - *Massachusetts State*
Mennonite Central Committee - *National*
Metro Atlanta Task Force on Housing & Homelessness - *Atlanta, GA*
Metropolitan Tenants Organization - *Chicago, IL*
Miami Workers Center - *Miami, FL*
Millvale Resident Association - *Cincinnati, OH*
Mineral Manor Resident Council - *Reno, NV*
Minneapolis High Rise Council - *Minneapolis, MN*
Mission Terrace Residents Association - *San Jose, CA*
Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities - *Mississippi State*
Mobilizing and Organizing for Victory and Empowerment - *Minneapolis, MN*
Mothers on the Move - *New York, NY*
Myra Birch Manor Resident Council - *Reno, NV*
National Alliance of HUD Tenants - *National*
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - *Richmond, VA*
National Association of Consumer Advocates - *National*
National Association of Resident Management Corporations - *National*
National Economic and Social Rights Initiative - *National*
National People's Action - *National*
National Training & Information Center - *National*
New Direction for Change - *Chicago, IL*
New Orleans Women's Health Clinic - *New Orleans, LA*

New Orleans Women's Health & Justice Initiative - *New Orleans, LA*
Neill Resident Association - *St. Paul, MN*
North Valley Community Cooperative - *North Valley, NM*
North West Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition - *New York, NY*
North West Side Housing Center - *Chicago, IL*
New York City AIDS Housing Network - *New York, NY*
New York City Public Housing Residents Alliance - *New York, NY*
Oahu Housing Task Force - *Oahu, HI*
Old Colony Tenant Task Force - *Boston, MA*
Organization of the North East - *Chicago, IL*
Organizing Neighborhood Equity DC - *Washington, D.C.*
Peabody-Englewood Tenant Task Force - *Boston, MA*
People for Community Recovery - *Chicago, IL*
People Organized for Westside Renewal - *Los Angeles, CA*
People Organized to Win Employment Rights - *San Francisco, CA*
People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights - *San Francisco, CA*
People United to Secure Housing - *Kalamazoo, MI*
Pittsburg Community Reinvestment Corporation - *Pittsburg, PA*
Portland Tenants Union - *Portland, ME*
Praxis Project - *National*
Public Housing Association of Residents - *Charlottesville, VA*
Public Housing Residents of the Lower East Side - *New York, NY*
Public Housing Residents of Trumbull Park Homes - *Chicago, IL*
Resident Owned Business, Inc. - *Gary, IN*
Residents of Salem United - *Salem, OH*
Rhode Island HUD Tenant Project - *Rhode Island State*
Richland Resident Council - *Richland County, MT*
Rogers Park Section 8 Tenants Council - *Chicago, IL*
Rose Garden Apartment Association of Residents - *Las Vegas, NV*
Safe Streets/Strong Communities - *New Orleans, LA*
Senior Action Council - *Phoenix, AZ*
Seventy St. Botolph Street Tenant Taskforce - *Boston, MA*
Single Mothers on the Move - *Hartford, CT*
South Austin Coalition Community Council - *Chicago, IL*
Southside Together Organizing for Power - *Chicago, IL*
Sunflower Community Action - *Kansas State*
Survivors Village - *New Orleans, LA*
Sutter View Resident Council - *Cincinnati, OH*
Syracuse United Neighbors - *Syracuse, NY*
Tenants Union of Washington State - *Washington State*
Tenants Rallying In Unity to Maintain Public Housing - *New York, NY*
Transadvocacy Coalition - *Hartford, CT*
Tri-City Resident Council - *Southeastern Kentucky*
Union de Vecinos - *Los Angeles, CA*
United Community Housing Coalition - *Hartland, VT*
United Residents for Housing Rights - *Jackson, OH*
Upland Residents Association - *Upland, CA*
West Broadway Tenant Task Force - *Boston, MA*
Whittier Street Tenant Task Force - *Boston, MA*
Winton Terrace Resident Association - *Cincinnati, OH*